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Diana T Fritz 03/15/2007 03:00:06 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable  
Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

April 03, 2004

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 938 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR  
Captions: None  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: U.S. VETO/ARAB SUMMIT  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00938

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: PAO  
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM  
Laser1:  
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER  
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB  
CLEARED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER

VZCZCADI353  
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR  
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC  
DE RUEHAD #0938/01 0940426  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 030426Z APR 04  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3780  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0779  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0817  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//  
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 000938

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;  
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH/MOC; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S. VETO/ARAB SUMMIT

11. SUMMARY: THE U.S. VETO AGAINST A UN RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN  
SHEIKH AHMAD YASSIN'S ASSASSINATION AND CANCELING THE ARAB SUMMIT

IN TUNIS DOMINATED COVERAGE IN ALL ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA THIS WEEK. AN EDITORIAL IN "AL BAYAN" NOTED THAT THE PICTURE OF THE U.S. WOULD BECOME MORE AND MORE DEFORMED AFTER THE VETO. GULF NEWS' EDITOR IN CHIEF ABDUL HAMID AHMAD NOTED ON 03/29 THAT THE POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION OF THE ARAB SUMMIT SHOULD NOT BE A SURPRISE SINCE NOTHING WAS EXPECTED FROM THIS SUMMIT ANYWAY. AN EDITORIAL IN "AL KHALEEJ" NOTED THAT THE U.S. USING THE VETO IS TERRORISM. END SUMMARY.

12. NOTING THAT IT IS NO TIME FOR CONFLICT, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED 03/30:

". CANCELING THE ARAB SUMMIT HAS SHOWN THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO REACH A SOLUTION FOR OUR CONTINUOUS CONFLICTS AND PROBLEMS, WHICH HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ARAB STREET. THE ARAB CONFLICTS DON'T REVEAL THE GENERAL ARAB PUBLIC OPINION. THESE ARE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE DECISION MAKERS AT THE SUMMIT, BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE SHOULD SURRENDER TO OUR CONFLICTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE HARD CIRCUMSTANCES OUR NATION IS GOING THROUGH. THE CHALLENGES AND DANGERS THAT ARE FACING THE ARAB WORLD ARE IN NEED FOR THE ARAB LEADERS TO OVERCOME THEIR PROBLEMS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE ARAB SUMMIT HAPPENS VERY SOON."

13. NOTING THAT ON EARTH DAY THINGS IN THE ARAB WORLD SEEM TO BE GETTING WORSE AND WORSE, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 03/30:

". ON EARTH DAY THE ARAB SITUATION SEEMS TO BE THE WORST, SINCE THE ARAB SUMMIT PEOPLE ARE NOT ABLE TO MEET, AND IT IS FORBIDDEN TO TALK ABOUT ARAB UNITY OR COOPERATION AND ABOUT ANYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH NATIONALISM. BUT BETS ON THE WILL AND BELIEF IN THE JUSTICE OF OUR CAUSE ARE STILL THE ARBITRATORS THAT MIGHT MAKE ALL THE PROJECTS OF SURRENDERING TO OCCUPATION FAIL."

14. COMMENTING ON CANCELING THE ARAB SUMMIT IN TUNIS, DUBAI-BASED ENGLISH DAILY "GULF NEWS" EDITORIALIZED ON 03/29:

". THIS GOES TO THE VERY HEART OF THE CONTINUED ABJECT FAILURE OF THE ARAB LEAGUE TO PRODUCE SOLID PROPOSALS. WHILE INTENTIONS MAY BE GOOD ON THE PART OF SOME NATIONS, OTHERS IN THE ARAB WORLD WILL NOT ATTEND MEETINGS, WHICH ARE NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION AND THE RESULTS PRESENTED TO THE DELEGATES AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI. YET, GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRODUCE REFORMATION PROPOSALS, THE ARAB WORLD-THIS TIME IN THE GUISE OF THE ARAB LEAGUE-FALLS BEFORE IT HAS EVEN GOT TO THE FIRST HURDLE. THERE IS A DESPERATE NEED FOR REFORM IN THE REGION; LEADERS CANNOT CONTINUE TO THWART THE IDEAS PRESENTED TO THEM BY THEIR CITIZENS. THEY MUST LEND A SYMPATHETIC EAR TO THEM, WITH A VIEW TO THEIR IMPLEMENTATION NOT REJECTION."

15. UNDER THE HEADLINE "IT'S BEST FOR THE ARAB LEAGUE TO GO," ABDUL HAMID AHMED EDITOR IN CHIEF WROTE IN "GULF NEWS" ON 02/29:

". THE LAST MINUTE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SUMMIT SHOULD NEITHER SURPRISE ANYONE NOR UPSET THE ARABS, AS NOTHING WAS EXPECTED FROM THE MEETING IN THE FIRST PLACE. HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF POSTPONING THE MEETING, ARAB HEADS OF STATE SHOULD HAVE BEEN FRANK AND COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO DECLARE OUTRIGHT THE DEATH OF THE ARAB LEAGUE. THE ARAB LEAGUE HAS FAILED IN FULFILLING THE BASIC HOPES AND AMBITIONS OF ITS CITIZENS, AND THE REGION'S LEADERS SHOULD REPLACE IT WITH AN INSTITUTION THAT WILL WORK TO CREATE A EUROPEAN UNION-STYLE COMMON ARAB MARKET. WHAT I MEAN IS A CONCRETE PROJECT, NOT SWEET WORDS AND EMPTY PROMISES.. A PROJECT THAT WILL FULFILL OUR ASPIRATIONS AND SATISFY OUR HOPES FOR PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY."

16. DR. ANWAR GARGASH COMMENTED ON WASHINGTON'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ASSASSINATION OF SHEIKH AHMED YASSIN IN AN ARTICLE IN "GULF NEWS" ON 03/29:

"AMERICA'S REPUTATION IN THE ARAB WORLD IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW. THE BOTTOM FELL OUT YET AGAIN, AND WHAT HAS BEEN A STRAINED RELATIONSHIP ALL ALONG IS FURTHER AFFECTED BY WASHINGTON'S RESPONSE TO ISRAEL'S ASSASSINATION OF SHEIKH AHMED YASSIN, THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF HAMAS. WASHINGTON'S CALL FOR RESTRAINT FROM BOTH PARTIES, AND REFUSAL TO CONDEMN A VIOLENT, POLITICAL ASSASSINATION WAS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO WIDESPREAD EUROPEAN CONDEMNATION OF THIS MURDER. YET AGAIN, BLIND SUPPORT FOR

SHARON'S EXTREMIST POLICIES WAS OUT OF PLACE WITH THE ROLE THE UNITED STATES IS EXPECTED TO PLAY IN BRINING AN END TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT."

¶7. UNDER THE HEADLINE "ARABS ANNOUNCE THEIR BANKRUPTCY," "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED 03/29:

". THE TRUTH BEHIND CANCELING THE ARAB SUMMIT IS ABSENT, AND THE PERSON, WHO IS THE NORMAL ARAB MAN OF THE STREET, WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO KNOW, DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. WHAT HAPPENED IS COMPLETE DISDAIN OF THE NATIONS CAPABILITIES THAT IS LIVING THROUGH THE WORST DAYS, AND THE BIGGEST LOSER IS EVERY ARAB PERSON WHO WAS HOPING THAT HIS LEADERS WOULD REACH THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF COOPERATION TO SAVE WHAT CAN BE SAVED OF OUR LOST RIGHTS. THE BIGGEST WINNER IS THE ZIONIST TERRORIST ENTITY. THE WEAK SITUATION THAT THE ARABS ARE IN REACHED ITS HIGHEST LIMIT AND MIGHT LEAD ISRAEL TO INCREASE ITS ATTACKS AGAINST OUR BROTHERS IN PALESTINE."

¶8. NOTING THAT ALTHOUGH THE RESULTS OF THE ARAB SUMMIT WERE NOT VERY HOPEFUL BUT CANCELING IT WAS A BIG SURPRISE, "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 03/29:

". IT IS RIGHT THAT BETS ON THE ARAB SUMMIT WERE NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC FROM THE ARAB SIDE BECAUSE OFFICIAL RESPONSES TO THE STRANGE INITIATIVES TARGETING THE ARAB WORLD WERE NOT AT A RESPECTABLE LEVEL, AND THE ARAB DEALINGS WITH THE ZIONISTS AND WHAT SHARON IS COMMITTING WAS VERY WEAK. IT WAS STRANGE AND SURPRISING FOR THE SUMMIT TO BE CANCELLED ALL OF A SUDDEN, AS IF THERE IS A DECISION TO BLOW UP ALL THE ARAB REGIMES AND TO KILL ANY HOPE OF ARAB COOPERATION."

¶9. COMMENTING ON THE U.S. USING THE VETO AGAINST A UN RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE ASSASSINATION OF SHEIKH AHMAD YASSIN, "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED ON 3/27:

". THE MOST DANGEROUS THING IN THIS VETO IS THE DEFORMATION OF THE PICTURE OF THE U.S. IN THE ARAB AND ISLAMIC WORLD AND THE CONSIDERATION OF THE U.S. AS PROTECTING THE BUTCHER SHARON, IT WILL EVEN PUSH SOME PEOPLE TO ACCUSE THE U.S. OF BEING ITS ALLY IN THE ATTACKS SINCE IT PROVIDES ISRAEL WITH ITS WEAPONS. WE THINK THAT IT'S TIME FOR WASHINGTON TO REVIEW ITS ATTITUDE, AND TO DEAL WITH ALL SIDES NEUTRALLY AND USE ITS POWER TO SPREAD JUSTICE AND TOLERANCE IN THE WORLD, AND TO USE THE VETO IN PUTTING OUT RATHER THAN STARTING FIRES, THAT WAY IT WON'T ASK THE QUESTION `WHY DO THEY HATE US?'"

¶10. NOTING THAT THE U.S. VETO IS TERRORISM, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 03/27:

". THIS VETO, WHICH IS TERRORISM WITH EXCELLENCE, SHOULD WAKE THE ARABS UP FROM THEIR SLEEP IN ORDER TO SHOW AND EXPLAIN TO THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION THAT THEY HAVE HAD IT, AND THAT ITS (U.S.) CHOICE TO KEEP ON SUPPORTING THE ZIONIST TERRORISM AND PROVIDING IT WITH THE GREEN LIGHT TO COMMIT MORE AND MORE TERRORIST ACTS IS SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE IGNORED ANYMORE, IT EVEN MAKES IT PARALLEL TO THOSE WHO KILL HUMANS IN PALESTINE."

¶11. UNDER THE HEADLINE "ARABS BETWEEN THE U.S. VETO AND THE EUROPEAN HYPOCRISY," ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 03/27:

". WHEN WILL THE ARABS DEAL WITH THE AMERICAN VETO AND THE EUROPEAN HYPOCRISY AS THEY DESERVE AND AS IS APPROPRIATE TO ALL THE CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING IN THIS DIFFICULT ERA, WHICH IS THREATENING TO LOSE OUR PRIDE AND RIGHTS?"

WAHBA